



## 2021 PPC State Photographic Image Competition

**Saturday, February 20, 2021**

Judging starts at 9:00 a.m.

Online competition via Zoom

[Register](https://bit.ly/3oRhKO1) to attend: <https://bit.ly/3oRhKO1>

### Key Highlights

- Registration opens on January 4 and closes on February 15 at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time.
- A full panel of PPA trained jury chairman and jurors.
- Open to Professional Photographers of California (PPC) members and non-members. Entry fees differ. Only PPC members are eligible for awards and merits.
- Maximum of ten (10) entries per entrant. Try your ideas and get feedback!
- Per-image pricing. You may enter as few as one (1) or up to ten (10) images.
- Due to the pandemic, only digital files may be submitted for online judging. No physical prints are accepted this year.
- Image critique is only \$39 for the entire case! Get timely feedback from PPA trained judges for you to prepare your entries for PPA District Photographic Competitions and International Photographic Competition (IPC).
- Judging is open to the public. Please register to attend the online competition live.
- Competition registration requires membership for PrintCompetition.com.
- The date for the awards ceremony is to be determined and will be announced on the PPC website [ppconline.com](http://ppconline.com).

**Please direct any questions to John Aranas, PPC Photographic Image Competition Committee Chair, at (562) 825-6903 or [ffphotograh1@gmail.com](mailto:ffphotograh1@gmail.com).**



## **2021 PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA (PPC) STATE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE COMPETITION RULES**

**Quick Reference:**      **Rules & Instructions.....P1-5**  
                                 **Additional Information..... P6-10**

The purpose of this competition is to allow photographers to enter photographic images or albums to be judged against a standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image. Entries in the Photographic Artist (PA) category will also be judged for digital, artistic, and technical proficiency. Through this competition, PPC members are also eligible to achieve PPC Exhibition Merits toward the California Master Photographer Degree.

These rules pertain to images entered as digital files created by traditional photographic processes, those captured electronically with a digital camera or scanner, as well as those created digitally:

1. All entries must be registered through PrintCompetition.com.
2. Entrants may only submit digital files for judging.
3. Entrants are required to upload a digital file for each image entered.
4. No changes to your entry are permitted once the entry deadline has passed. No refunds will be issued after the entry fee is paid.
5. Entrants do not need to be PPC members to enter the PPC State Photographic Image Competition. However, only PPC members will be eligible for merits and awards, which are our member benefits. Also, entry fees differ for PPC members and non-members.
6. Entries previously merited at any PPC State Photographic Image Competition or Professional Photographers of America (PPA) International Photographic Competition (IPC) are not eligible, including any image from a merited album.

## ELIGIBILITY

### 1. Work made under supervision:

**For all categories except PPC California Workshops/West Coast School** -- No entry will be eligible if it has been made under the supervision of an instructor or as a class assignment. All images submitted must be self-directed. Images created in an educational environment under direct supervision from an instructor are ineligible.

**For PPC California Workshops/West Coast School category** -- Entries made under the supervision of an instructor or as a class assignment in PPC California Workshops (previously known as Fundays) or West Coast School may be entered in this category but will not be granted PPC Exhibition Merits. PPC California Workshop or West Coast School instructors may enter the images they created in a regular PPC-merit category or this non-PPC merit PPC California Workshops/West Coast School category, but not both.

	<b>For all categories unless otherwise noted</b>	<b>Photographic Artist category</b>	<b>PPC California Workshops/ West Coast School category</b>
<b>2. Original image capture</b>	Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure or exposures. Any entry which has been generated from an existing photograph, portrait, graphic or any other artwork generated by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be judged, accepted or displayed.	Entries can include stock photography, photographs, or artwork from other artist(s) with written consent to use those sources. This documentation may be requested by PPC before, during, or after the competition.	For entries that are “Photographic Artist” in nature, follow rules under “Photographic Artist.” Otherwise, rules for “all other categories” apply.
<b>3. Processing by entrant</b>	All processing, manipulation, and rendering, must be by the entrant or under their direct supervision.	All processing, manipulation, artwork or rendering must be done by the entrant.	
<b>4. Inclusion of guide images</b>	Inclusion of guide images will lead to disqualification.	Entrants are encouraged but not required to include guide images so that the judges may understand the process used and techniques involved in creating the final image.	

5. The entrant must have obtained and have access to all necessary releases (model or property) and agree to hold PPC harmless against all claims and liabilities arising out of PPC's display, publication and promotion or other use of each image submitted to PPC.
6. Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, as long as the images are entirely different concepts.
7. If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the PPC Photographic Image Competition Committee, violates copyright, trademark, or any other applicable law and cannot be proven otherwise, that entry shall be disqualified and merits revoked, if issued.
8. The entrant's name or studio identification shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
9. A maximum of ten (10) entries may be submitted per entrant.
10. Entry media includes digital images and digital albums.
11. Once an entry has been awarded an exhibition merit in any category of PPC or PPA competition, it may not be entered again in any other category, at any time, by any entrant. No entry that receives a merit may be entered more than once under any condition, including any image from a merited album.

## REGISTRATION

- Registration opens Monday, January 4, 2021.
- Register at [PrintCompetition.com](http://PrintCompetition.com). Membership for PrintCompetition.com is required for registration; membership is good for one year, and it covers all photographic associations that run image competitions using the platform.

## CATEGORY DESIGNATION

You must designate one of the categories below for each entry. See COMPETITION CATEGORIES for descriptions.

Commercial  
 Illustrative  
 Landscape  
 Nature  
 Photographic Artist

Photojournalism  
 Portrait  
 Wedding  
 \*PPC California Workshops/West Coast School  
 (non-merit category)

## PHYSICAL PRINT & ALBUM ENTRIES

Physical entries are not accepted in the 2021 image competition.

## DIGITAL SUBMISSION

1. Files must be sized so the longest dimension is 4000 pixels. Each file must contain an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB (1998) and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. In most cases, total file size should not exceed 3.5 MB. Larger files will be accepted when necessary as long as they are JPG/10.
2. Files will be automatically named and numbered by the PrintCompetition.com website.

## DIGITAL ALBUM ENTRIES

A digital album is to be submitted as a set of digital files to be judged as sequential layouts on monitors. Only one album is allowed per entrant in each of Album, Event and Album, Non-event categories.

1. All page/spread files must have the longest file dimension at 4000 pixels, have an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB (1998) and saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10.
2. Each page/spread file may contain as many images as you desire.
3. An entry shall contain a minimum of 5 page/spread files up to 36 page/spread files.
4. Files are to be numbered in viewing order using two digits, i.e. 01 jpg, 02 jpg, 03 jpg, etc.
5. All individual files must be compressed into a single ZIP file.
6. The entrant's name or studio identification shall not appear on any file within the album entry.
7. When registering your album, add the first page of your album as your reference file.

ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE FINAL. NO CHANGES TO YOUR ENTRY ARE PERMITTED ONCE IT IS SUBMITTED. YOU MAY NOT CHANGE THE TITLE, CONTENT, OR TYPE OF ANY ENTRY AFTER YOU SUBMIT PAYMENT TO FINALIZE THE ENTRY.

## DEADLINES AND FEES

- **Deadline of submission: Monday, February 15, 2021 at 5 p.m. Pacific Time.** No registration will be accepted after Feb 15th.
- **You must be a member of PrintCompetition.com**, an online management system for image judging and scoring. Please sign up in order to access registration and remote live streaming. Currently, basic membership is \$10 per year. Premium membership is also available for additional benefits.
- **For PPC Members (Premium, Professional, or Retired):** \$35.00 for the first image, each additional entry is \$15 for a total of up to 10 entries registered.
- **For Non-PPC members:** \$45.00 for the first image, each additional entry is \$25 for a total of up to 10 entries registered. Consider joining PPC to be eligible for merits and awards. See <https://ppconline.com/membership/>
- \$39.00 per case for image critiques. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks following the completion of the competition. Instructions to access the critiques will be emailed to you.
- All fees (entry fees and critique fee, if applicable. See Table 1) must be paid before the deadline for submission. Please submit the correct amount on the PrintCompetition.com website. Images uploaded

are not considered registered until the correct total fees have been received.

- If you have trouble with online payment, please call PPC Executive Administrator at (800) 439-5839 Ext. 1 (Monday through Friday 10am-5pm) or email [exec\\_adm@ppconline.com](mailto:exec_adm@ppconline.com).

**TABLE 1 Total Fees** based on membership, number of entries, and image critique

		<b>Number of Entries</b>									
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PPC Member</b>	<b>With critique</b>	\$74	\$89	\$104	\$119	\$134	\$149	\$164	\$179	\$194	\$209
	<b>No critique</b>	\$35	\$50	\$65	\$80	\$95	\$110	\$125	\$140	\$155	\$170
<b>Non-member</b>	<b>With critique</b>	\$84	\$109	\$134	\$159	\$184	\$209	\$234	\$259	\$284	\$309
	<b>No critique</b>	\$45	\$70	\$95	\$120	\$145	\$170	\$195	\$220	\$245	\$270

**Note: Failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification of the entry. The decision of the Judges and the PPC Photographic Image Competition Committee is final.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### COMPETITION CATEGORIES

**TABLE A1 List of Competition Categories**

	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
1.	Commercial	Industrial, architecture, tabletop, advertising, stock, and aerial images.  Maker may upload a “tear-sheet” to the PrintCompetition.com website for the judges to see how the image was used.
2.	Illustrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Images representing an alternative type of creativity, photography, and/or not meeting the requirements of any other categories.</li><li>• Non-wedding albums</li></ul>
3.	Landscape	Images of landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes, and nightscapes being the dominant subject. People can appear in the image.
4.	Nature	Images where the flora and/or fauna are the dominant subject, and no man-made objects are visible. Domesticated animals and in-house plants are not considered nature and may be entered into Portrait or Illustrative categories where appropriate.
5.	Photographic Artist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Entries may include composites, restoration, and painting.</li><li>• Entries can include stock photography, photographs, or artwork from other artist(s) with written consent to use those sources.</li><li>• In addition to the 12 Elements of a Merit Image, judges will also consider the technique used and the degree of difficulty.</li><li>• Entrants are encouraged but not required to include guide images so that the judges may understand the process used and techniques involved in creating the final image.</li></ul>
6.	Photojournalism	Image captured at the peak of action and telling a story. Nothing may be altered. Minor dodging, burning, dust spot removal, curves adjustment, and conversion to black-and-white are the only treatments allowed. Maker must be prepared to submit the original file at any point for verification.
7.	Portrait	Images that portray a subject or subjects from all walks of life and should reflect the personality of the subject(s). E.g. children, families, high school seniors, animals, groups, couples, models, and fashion portraits, in addition to tastefully artistic figure studies.

8.	Wedding	Images and albums created in connection with an actual wedding or related social events. Include Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Quinceañera.
9.	*PPC California Workshops/West Coast School (non-merit category)	Any images created at West Coast School or at a registered PPC California Workshops program. Images will be scored as per PPA scoring rules, but they are not eligible for any PPC Exhibition Merits. Limited eligibility for awards.

## JUDGING

- **2021 PPC State Photographic Image Competition will take place on Saturday, February 20, 2021. Judging will start at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time.**
- Judging will be open to the public. [Register](https://bit.ly/3oRhKO1) to attend online: <https://bit.ly/3oRhKO1>
- Judging will be based on the PPA scoring system. See SCORING.
- Scores will be posted on the [PPC website](#) within 10 days.
- The date for the awards ceremony is to be determined and will be announced on the [PPC website](#).

## SCORING

- Entries in the PPC State Photographic Image Competition can receive scores up to 100 points, dependent on how they meet PPA's 12 Elements of a Merit Image.

### What the scores mean:

100 - 95: Exceptional  
94 - 90: Superior  
89 - 85: Excellent  
84 - 80: Deserving of a Merit  
79 - 75: Above Average  
74 - 70: Average  
69 - 65: Below Exhibition Standards

### 12 Elements of a Merit Image:

1. Impact
2. Technical Excellence
3. Creativity
4. Style
5. Composition
6. Presentation
7. Color Balance
8. Center of Interest
9. Lighting
10. Subject Matter
11. Technique
12. Story Telling

<https://www.ppa.com/events/photo-competitions/ipc-international-photographic-competition-overview/the-12-elements-of-a-merit-image>

## AWARDS & MERITS (PPC MEMBERS ONLY)

- **Only PPC members in good standing at the time of registration with a competition-eligible membership will be eligible for merits and awards.** (Student and vendor memberships are not eligible for merits and awards.)
- Entries scoring 80 points and above will be considered for merits and awards.



- PPC members are also eligible to receive PPC Exhibition Merits toward the California Master Photographer Degree. No more than four (4) entries may be scored for the degree in a calendar year. For all categories except PPC California Workshops/West Coast School, entries scoring 80-84 points will be awarded one (1) PPC Exhibition Merit. Entries scoring 85 points and above will be awarded two (2) PPC Exhibition Merits.
- **PPC Prime Image Collection** was introduced in the 2018 competition. It represents the “Best of the Best” in PPC State Photographic Image Competitions and is to be featured at major PPC events and as a traveling exhibition. Entries scoring 87 points or more will be accepted into the collection.

## PPC STATE AWARDS

Entries scoring 80 points and above will be eligible for awards.

PPC California Workshops/West Coast School is a non-merit category. Eligible entries in the category will only be qualified for (i) Best of PPC California Workshops/West Coast School, (ii) Judges Choice, and (iii) Judges Honorable Mention. *\*marked by an asterisk in the table below.*

**TABLE A2 List of Awards**

	<b>Award</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
1.	<b>PPC Photographer of the Year</b>	The highest total score. The total score of a case will be determined by adding the scores of the top four (4) entries in the case. If there is a tie, the judges’ decision will be final.
2.	<b>Top Ten Photographers</b>	The 10 highest total scores. The total score of a case will be determined by adding the scores of the top four (4) entries in the case. If there is a tie, the highest and lowest scores will be added then divided by 4 to the point that will break the tie.
3.*	<b>PPC Category Photographer of the Year</b>  <b>Best of PPC California Workshop/West Coast School</b>	To be chosen by the judges from entries that score 80 points and above in each category. For example, all entries scoring 80 and above in the Children category will be shown together. Then judges will vote for the “Best in Category”, the maker of which will receive the “PPC Children’s Photographer of the Year” award. If there is a tie, the judges’ decision will be final.
4.	<b>Best of Show</b>	To be chosen by judges from category winners, excluding PPC California Workshops/West Coast School category.
5.*	<b>Judges Choice</b>	One (1) image to be chosen by each judge as his or her favorite image.

6.*	<b>Judges Honorable Mention</b>	To be chosen by the judges from entries that score 80 points and above as worthy of recognition, excluding category winners.
7.	<b>BayPhoto Award of Excellence (Larry Award)</b>	Sponsored by Bay Photo Lab. To be chosen by Bay Photo Staff.
8.	<b>President’s Choice Award</b>	To be chosen by the President of PPC as his or her favorite image.
9.	<b>Certified Professional Photographer (CPP) Award</b>	The highest-scoring entry (print, album, or electronic submission) from a Certified Professional Photographer. <a href="https://www.ppa.com/press-room/ppa-affiliate-awards/the-certified-professional-photographer-award">https://www.ppa.com/press-room/ppa-affiliate-awards/the-certified-professional-photographer-award</a>
10.	<b>ASP State Elite Award</b>	Sponsored by Miller’s Lab. The highest-scoring entry from an American Society of Photographers (ASP) member in good standing. In the event of a tie, total case score (top 4 images in PPC merit categories) will be the first tiebreaker. Special conditions may apply to PPC members who reside outside of California. Please check on: <a href="https://asofp.com/awards/state-elite-award">https://asofp.com/awards/state-elite-award</a>
11.	<b>Sunset Print Award (LexJet)</b> <i>Digital image eligible in 2021</i>	Awarded by LexJet. To be chosen by judges from the 10 highest-scoring prints in the competition as “Best Print in Exhibition”. <del>Entry must be inkjet-printed and submitted and judged as a physical print.</del> <a href="https://sunset.lexjet.com/award-application">https://sunset.lexjet.com/award-application</a>
12.	<b>Fuji Masterpiece Award</b> <i>Not to be awarded in 2021</i>	Awarded by FujiFilm North America Corporation. To be awarded to the highest-scoring physical print entry printed on qualified FujiFilm paper in selected categories.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Portrait Fuji Masterpiece Award</b></li> <li>- <b>Wedding Fuji Masterpiece Award</b></li> <li>- <b>Illustrative Fuji Masterpiece Award</b> to be selected from Commercial, Illustrative, Landscape, Nature, Photojournalism, and Photographic Artist</li> </ul> <p>In the event of a tie in any Fuji Masterpiece category, the judges will decide the winner. <a href="http://www.fujifilmusa.com/products/photofinishing/paper_lab_products/masterpiece.html">http://www.fujifilmusa.com/products/photofinishing/paper_lab_products/masterpiece.html</a></p>

13.	<b>PermaJet Award</b> <i>Digital image eligible in 2021</i>	Sponsored by PermaJet USA. To be chosen by judges from <b>black-and-white monochrome physical print</b> entries scoring 80 points and above as “Best Black and White Print”. Entry <del>must be inkjet-printed.</del> <a href="https://www.permajetusa.com/">https://www.permajetusa.com/</a>
14.	<b>People’s Choice Award</b>	Sponsored by Glen and Robin Clark. To be decided by online public voting after the competition.

Asterisks (\*) above denote awards for which entries in the PPC California Workshops/West Coast School category will be eligible.